

SCOTTISH INSECT RECORDS – In a recent issue (*Entomologist's Rec. J. Var.* 98: 123) Dr. I. D. Wallace recorded a pterophorid moth, *Capperia britanniodactyla* (Gregson), from a Scottish locality and stated that he had “not been able to trace any other Scottish records”. This prompts me to draw attention to a powerful research tool called the Scottish Insect Record Index (SIRI) that we maintain here at the Royal Museum of Scotland (formerly the Royal Scottish Museum). Among several functions, the SIRI provides a fairly reliable and easy means of checking whether there are existing published records of particular species of insects occurring in Scotland.

The SIRI is an index only to *published citations* (i.e. it does not include existing but unpublished specimens in collections, or manuscript records) but, because it is based on a wide and comprehensive survey of both old and modern literature, we believe it to be reasonably complete in this respect. The records are divided into Orders, within each of which the literature citations are arranged alphabetically according to the specific name as published. (Therefore synonyms must also be checked). For several years it has been energetically maintained by a competent entomologist, Dr. Joan Basden, and it is currently less than one year behind the present for most sources. The information for each entry is given in the form : binomen as published; vice county number (or other regional data); journal or book reference (to page only). It is necessary to check these references in order to evaluate what is said : some entries could be negative reports, or reiterations of past records. For example, this note will be indexed under *C. britanniodactyla* even though it brings forward no new record. Researchers, in the broadest possible sense, can either visit the museum and (by prior arrangement, please) consult the SIRI themselves, or else they can contact the Museum's staff and we will be pleased to look for information on a limited number of species for them. We are, however, regrettably unable to answer requests like “please send all Scottish records of such-and-such a group”: for more than a small number of species, I am afraid that you would usually have to visit us to consult it yourself. The maintenance of this important resource always has to compete for funds, and it is therefore desirable that users (including those who find no records of the species that concern them) acknowledge the Scottish Insect Records Index maintained here in their publications.

The recent records of *C. britanniodactyla* in Scotland traceable through the SIRI are as follows:—

- i. *Proc. Trans. Br. ent. nat. Hist.; Soc.* 14 : 25 (1981). VC 83. (A specimen taken by Dr. K. P. Bland on 5.vii.1980 on Blackford Hill, Edinburgh and exhibited at the B.E.N.H.S. Annual Exhibition on 1.xi.1980).

- ii. *Proc. Trans. Br. ent. nat. Hist. Soc.* **15** : 36 (1982). VC 83.
(A reared series from the same site, exhibited by Dr. Bland at the following year's Exhibition on 24.x.1981).
- iii. *Entomologist's Rec. J. Var.* **96** : 257 (1984). VC 72.
(This records Dr. R. P. Knill-Jones' capture of this species at Tynron (misspelt "Tynson" in the paper), Dumfriesshire in 1982).
- iv. *Glasg. Nat.* **21** : 95 (1985). VC 75 and VC 86. (Recording captures at Ailsa Craig by P. Wormell and at Fintry and Ballantrae by I. C. Christie).

A number of old records in the SIRI (as *teucarii*) would need more critical assessment owing to early confusions over the identification and nomenclature of this and related species. — M. R. SHAW, Royal Museum of Scotland, Chambers Street, Edinburgh EH1 1JF.

ANASPIS COSTAI EM. & MORDELLISTENA HUMERALIS L. (COL.: MORDELLIDAE) IN S. E. LONDON. — I have long kept a look-out in my home district for four not uncommon *Anaspis* spp. which might be expected to occur; namely *frontalis* L., *pulicaria* Costa, *rufilabris* Gyll. and *costai* Em. (The continued absence of the first is strange since it is regarded as one of the generally common species.) Two years ago I managed to find there a solitary *A. pulicaria*, while this year (1985) I have at last taken a single male *A. costai*. Like the former, this was in Maryon-Wilson Park, Charlton, and was shaken from fragmentary remnants of hogweed flowers (unfortunately scarce in the locality) on 17th August. Previous records for the London suburbs, if any — under the name *flava* v. *thoracica* — are early and unsatisfactory; Lewisham and Brockley, by W. West in 'Woolwich Surveys', must be suspect because he has no record under *A. subtestacea* Steph. (now *lurida* Steph.) which is common enough hereabouts and far likelier to have been the species actually taken. The VCH list for Kent (Fowler, 1908) gives no record for East Kent; I took the species at Doddington in that vice-county in 1965 (5.viii). It may be added that Fowler's datum (*l.c.*: 166) "On hawthorn blossom" (under *flava* v. *thoracica*) is inapplicable to *A. costai*, a late summer species not appearing until July.

On the occasion of taking this insect at Charlton as above, I obtained also four examples of the uncommon *Mordellistena humeralis* L. (the usual British form coloured like *neuwaldeggiana* Panz., see Allen *in press*) from a late but still fresh hogweed umbel — the last anywhere in the vicinity — and a further four in the course of the